

### TAX-SUPPORTED HOSPITALS IN CALIFORNIA

*The Publications of "The Committee on the Costs of Medical Care."*—No committee of national scope that has come into existence during recent years has received the unusual amount of publicity which has been given to "The Committee on the Costs of Medical Care." A fellow Californian, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, of Stanford University, at present Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior, is chairman of this national committee.

One of the surveys or reports which has thus far been printed under the sponsorship of this national committee is Publication No. 12, which deals with the "Medical Facilities of San Joaquin County of California."\*

Another publication, No. 13, is a survey of medical facilities of the State of Vermont. Each of these publications is of very great interest, but Volume 12, which deals with the San Joaquin Valley conditions, should particularly appeal to members of the medical profession of California. In later issues it may be possible to discuss these two reports and to comment on some of the relative findings.

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*Why the San Joaquin County Survey Has Special Interest at This Time.*—For the moment, some excerpts from the San Joaquin survey may be in order in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. Therefore, in the Miscellany Department of this issue, Chapter 12 of the *Survey of the Medical Facilities of San Joaquin County* is reprinted, because it deals with the scope and work of one of the county hospitals of California. The presentation of facts as given in Chapter 12 should be of interest, because the problems which face San Joaquin County are analagous to some which have been met with in other counties of California. (For reprint of Chapter 12, see page 298.)

A special reason for giving the space to a discussion of tax-supported hospitals of the San Joaquin Survey is because the second general meeting of the California Medical Association, to be held on Tuesday, May 3, at 11:30 a. m., at the Pasadena Annual Session will be given over to a discussion of medical economic topics. The Committee on Medical Economics will be in charge of the meeting and a large attendance is hoped for and free discussion invited. It is possible that tax-supported hospitals of California will be directly or indirectly referred to on that occasion.

Analyses such as this survey of the San Joaquin hospitals are quite worth the while, when based on honest desire for fact finding. To properly understand and interpret the conditions which nowadays face public hospitals and public health agencies it is important that we possess that knowledge which makes permissible the establishment of legitimate premises, which in turn can

be used in drawing logical conclusions. If the report of the National Committee on Costs of Medical Care, in so far as it relates to tax-supported hospitals, is in error, the reprinting of Chapter 12 should bring to light any improper statements.

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*Other Papers of Medical-Economic Interest in This Issue of California and Western Medicine.*—This issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE contains several other papers which would seem to be of special interest at a time when members of the California Medical Association are about to convene in annual session to discuss the scientific and economic welfare of the organized medical profession. Thus may be mentioned:

The article by Van Zandt on "State Medical Libraries," in which the value of such institutions as exemplified by past experience is portrayed; (See page 217.)

The article by Stone of Pasadena in which some of the deficiencies of modern hospitals and hospital practice are outlined; (See page 220.)

The article by Leland, director of the new Bureau of Medical Economics of the American Medical Association, in which a good analysis is made of modern-day "Contract Practice."

Whether you go to the Pasadena annual session or not, you are urged to read these papers. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We owe it to ourselves and to our profession to have an intelligent and comprehensive understanding of these important subjects. With such understanding, we will be in position to discuss them.

### TWO RESOLUTIONS FOR THE A. M. A. MEETING AT NEW ORLEANS

*A California Resolution Regarding the Cuban Health Societies.*—The Executive Committee of the California Medical Association recently recommended that the delegates from California to the American Medical Association be instructed to submit a resolution embodying the recommendation made on page 118 of the February CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. That recommendation contained the suggestion that the American Medical Association House of Delegates should request the Board of Trustees of the national organization to make, at an early day, a real survey of the "Spanish Health Clubs and Societies" of Cuba, and that the results of the findings be transmitted to the constituent state associations of the American Medical Association. The next session of the American Medical Association will be held at New Orleans. It is hoped that the American Medical Association authorities will see fit to invite the Cuban Medical Federation to send a fraternal delegate to that meeting.

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*A Michigan State Medical Society Resolution Regarding the English Dole System.*—The February American Medical Association Bulletin contained a notice that the Michigan State Medical

\* Publication No. 12. A Survey of the Medical Facilities of San Joaquin County, California: 1929. By Nathan Sinal, D. P. H., et al., 230 pages. October, 1931. Paper, \$1.00. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois.

Society proposed to submit to the American Medical Association House of Delegates a somewhat similar resolution, but in relation to the European dole systems. The American Dental Association has already made such a survey in relation to dental practice. It would seem eminently proper that our national medical organization, with its splendid facilities and resources, should take the initiative in fact finding studies such as these. The reports could then be sent, not only to those constituent state medical societies which are making special studies of these problems, but also to the other state associations which, though seemingly less interested, nevertheless need to be awakened to their responsibilities in these important medical economic matters which everywhere face the medical profession. With the rapid development of health insurance organizations in many parts of the United States, it is becoming increasingly evident that "time is part of the essence of the contract" in these matters and that active steps should be taken to obtain the information which will enable members of the American medical profession to come to clearer conclusions on what should be done.

Some excerpts from the Michigan State Medical Society resolutions follow:

1. WHEREAS, The present unrest is bringing forth an increasing discussion and demand for some form of federal dole for relief of the indigent; and

WHEREAS, There is increasing agitation and solicitation that the Federal and State Governments provide a system of medical care for the people in some form or other similar to the British and French enactments; and

WHEREAS, Our only informative data emanate from outside organizations or individuals often biased or socially inclined; and . . .

*Be It Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association be requested to immediately institute a survey and compile facts upon the effect of doles and federal health and sick benefit appropriations and administration upon the practice of medicine in England and France and to compile a summary upon the effect such systems would have upon medical practice and scientific progress in the United States; and

*Be It Resolved*, That this information be made available to constituent state medical societies.

#### ARTICLES IN THIS PROGRAM NUMBER OF CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE

*Special Features and Articles in This Number.* This April number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in its text, has a somewhat different appearance than the usual issues of the official journal of the California Medical Association. This change from the ordinary form is due to the fact that the entire program of the annual session, which will be held on May 2 to 5 at the Hotel Huntington in Pasadena, is printed in this issue. The attention of members who are contemplating registration at this annual session is called to this program, which begins on page 256. It is hoped the presentation of text and of photographs of annual session guest speakers and officers, and of illustrations of the Hotel Huntington will all be of more or less interest to members of the California Medical Association. An inspection of the program at once indicates the extent to which the California Medical Association

has developed and the wide scope of its activities.

Attention is also called to the fact that this April number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE contains a lesser number of scientific papers than usual. This insertion of special articles of a general nature and of papers having to do with different phases of medical economic problems was intentional. Inasmuch as medical economic problems will be much discussed at this forthcoming Pasadena session, it was felt that the presentation of papers dealing with such topics would stimulate exchange of viewpoints by members who were in attendance, both in personal conversations and in meetings called for such specific purpose.

The articles by Van Zandt, Stone, and Leland are referred to elsewhere in this editorial column.

Comment may be here made concerning the article entitled "Organized Medical Care," which consists of excerpts by a fellow Californian, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, former president of Stanford University, and now secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, who has been largely responsible for bringing the national Committee on the Costs of Medical Care into existence. (See page 233.)

In the Miscellany department will also be found a number of articles having a relation to medical economic activities. It is hoped that many readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will take the time to read the topics discussed under the captions: "Medical Publicity—Good and Bad"; "Cultist Medicine"; "San Joaquin Tax-Supported Hospitals"; and "Clinics—and Clinics." (See pages 294, 298, and 301.)

After some of the above copy was sent to the printer, some new events happened in regard to one of the California cults, thus emphasizing more than ever the need of careful study on the part of practitioners of nonsectarian medicine of the important subject of healing art licensure. That and other topics, however, must be carried over for discussion in future issues. We can only repeat that a perusal and survey of the articles here referred to, particularly by those California Medical Association members who will be in attendance at the Pasadena meetings, cannot be other than beneficial to the interest of organized medicine in California.

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*Science and Research.*—J. H. Thompson, a young biochemist, has found that an extract of parathyroid gland of cattle will restrict or prevent growth without jeopardizing the health of the organism. The possible value of this discovery in the treatment of cancer is being investigated in the laboratories of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and at King's College. Sir Arthur Keith has suggested that an important application of this discovery might be in the treatment of acromegaly or gigantism. At the suggestion of Sir Julian Huxley the extract was used on a young salamander. The result was the same as that found when the extract was used on rats and rabbits—there was a marked growth-retarding effect on the animals used in the experiment. The treated rabbits remain at about half the size of the untreated rabbits. It was found that if a 20 per cent solution of this extract was used to moisten water cress seeds, germination was completely stopped. — *Pennsylvania Medical Journal*, March, 1932.